

## Amended Claims

I claim:

1-19. (canceled).

20. (currently amended) An apparatus for securing structural members of a building together comprising:

- a. a unitary body having a rectangular face, approximately right angled bends, and tabs;
- b. said rectangular face having ~~the bulk of the lower part~~ one side of the long dimension extended downward;
- c. said rectangular face having ~~said a generally~~ right angled bends on either ~~side~~ end of the short dimension each forming a rafter tab;
- d. each said rafter tabs each having ~~said a generally~~ right angled bends ~~on the bottom~~ forming a plate tab;
- e. said rectangular face having ~~said a generally~~ right angled bend on the ~~top~~ side of the long dimension, opposite the extended side, forming a plurality of sheathing tabs.

~~d. said top bend forming sheathing tabs;~~

~~e. said side bends forming rafter tabs;~~

~~f. said bends, on said bottom of said rafter tabs, forming plate tabs;~~

~~13.~~ 21. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim ~~12~~ 20 wherein said rectangular face having a predetermined length as a spacing means for accurate lateral-spacing of adjacent roof structural members along a top plate of a wall during roof construction.

- ~~14.~~ 22. (currently amended)The apparatus of claim ~~12~~ 20 wherein said rectangular face having a predetermined width as an enclosing means for covering an open space between ~~the top~~ a bottom of a roof structural member and the top of ~~the~~ a top plate.
- ~~15.~~ 23. (currently amended)The apparatus of claim ~~12~~ 20 wherein said ~~lower part~~ extended tab of said rectangular face having a generally trapezoidal shape in the same plane as said rectangular face extends down from said face as ~~a means for covering most of the side edges of the top plates of the wall to aid in nesting and preventing waste during manufacturing.~~
- ~~16.~~ 24. (currently amended)The apparatus of claim ~~12~~ 20 wherein said extended tab ~~lower part~~ of said rectangular face having a predetermined area and a plurality of nail holes as a fastening means to both plates of said a side of the top plate of the wall, when mounted on a building.
- ~~17.~~ 25. (currently amended)The apparatus of claim ~~12~~ 20 wherein said rectangular face having a plurality of ventilation ribs between said rafter tabs on the short ~~ends~~ dimension, and between said sheathing tabs and said ~~extended lower part of the long ends~~ extended tab on the long dimension, as a means for strength and ventilation.
- ~~18.~~ 26. (currently amended)The apparatus of claim ~~12~~ 20 wherein ~~the axis of said bend forming~~ said sheathing tabs having said generally right angled bends generally

parallel to the long dimension of said rectangular face, thereby placing said sheathing tabs generally perpendicular and adjacent to in front of said rectangular face, and said sheathing tabs each having a bolt hole as an attaching means to the underside of generally parallel to a roof, when mounted on a building.

~~19.~~ 27. (currently amended)The apparatus of claim ~~12~~ 20 wherein ~~the axis of said bends forming~~ said rafter tabs ~~are~~ having said generally right angled bends generally parallel to ~~the~~ each short dimension of said rectangular face, thereby placing said rafter tabs generally perpendicular to said rectangular face and ~~against~~ generally adjacent to opposite faces of adjacent neighboring roof rafter structural members, when mounted on a building.

~~20.~~ 28. (currently amended)The apparatus of claim ~~12~~ 20 wherein said rafter tabs having a predetermined area and a plurality of nail holes as an attaching means ~~for attachment~~ to the opposite, vertical edges of said ~~adjacent neighboring~~ roof structural members, when mounted on a building, thereby securing said members together at a predetermined distance.

~~21.~~ 29. (currently amended)The apparatus of claim ~~12~~ 20 wherein ~~the axis of said bends forming~~ said plate tabs having said generally right angled bends off each rafter tab ~~are~~ generally ~~parallel~~ perpendicular to said rectangular face, thereby placing said plate tabs

parallel and adjacent to the ~~on~~ top of a the top plate,  
when mounted on a building.

22.— 30. (currently amended)The apparatus of claim ~~12~~ 20 wherein  
said plate tabs having a predetermined area and a  
plurality of nail holes as an attaching means ~~for~~  
~~attachment~~ to the horizontal, top edge of said top  
plate of the wall, ~~generally next to the roof~~  
~~structural member.~~

23.— 31. (currently amended)The apparatus of claim ~~12~~ 20 wherein  
said sheathing tabs, said rafter tabs, and said plate  
tabs having attaching means to adjacent structural  
members, when mounted on a building, thereby forming a  
strong I-beam shape against the roof and wall  
structural members, as a means for preventing uplift  
and lateral movement.

24.— 32. (currently amended)The apparatus of claim ~~12~~ 20 wherein  
said ~~lower extension~~ extended side of said rectangular  
face, and said plate tabs having a generally  
perpendicular aspect to each other, and having  
attaching means to the adjacent, vertical and  
horizontal faces of ~~said~~ the top plate, thereby placing  
fasteners in shear, and suppressing thrust forces from  
the roof to the wall when mounted on a building.

25.— 33. (currently amended)The apparatus of claim ~~12~~ 20 wherein  
said sheathing tabs, said rafter tabs, said plate tabs,  
said rectangular face, and said ~~lower part~~ extended  
side of said rectangular face form a strong, generally  
box-shape connection between ~~said adjacent~~ neighboring

rafters, ~~said~~ the top plate, and ~~said~~ bottom of the roof sheathing when mounted on a building, thereby preventing uplift, thrusting, and lateral movement of the roof and the wall, as would occur during wind storms and seismic events.

- 26.—34. A retrofit apparatus for securing structural members of an existing building comprising:
- a. two generally flat and generally rectangular planes forming left and right faces;
  - [a] b. ~~two generally flat~~, said rectangular faces having approximately right angled bends on opposite ends of the short sides, forming rafter tabs having a plurality of nail holes;
  - [b] c. said rectangular faces each having ~~the lower a~~ single tab on the long side of the bottom extended down, and having a predetermined area and a plurality of nail holes as a means for attachment to outside wall sheathing and an underlying top plate;
  - [c] d. said rectangular faces each having an approximately right angled bends on top of the long dimension, forming a sheathing tabs on opposite ends;
  - [d] e. one of said faces having horizontal tracks with openings on one end, and the other face having runners with arms in the same plane, as a sliding means of lateral ~~sliding~~ locking of both plates.

- 27.—35. The apparatus of claim 26 34 wherein said left and right rectangular faces having ~~near~~ approximate mirror image of each other.

28—36. The apparatus of claim 26 34 wherein said tracks on one face allow said runner of other face to enter at the opening, while said arms allow ~~horizontal~~ slideable movement along said track.

29.—37. The apparatus of claim 26 34 wherein said plates move horizontally when coupled together with said runners and said tracks as a means of placing said rafter tabs ~~against~~ adjacent to vertical faces of adjacent neighboring rafters, when mounted on a building.

30.—38. The apparatus of claim 26 34 wherein said coupled plates move horizontally as a means of placing said rafter tabs against vertical faces of ~~adjacent~~ neighboring rafters that ~~were~~ are not placed at standard construction spacing, thereby filling the open space between neighboring rafters when mounted on an existing building.

31.—39. The apparatus of claim 26 34 wherein said rafter tabs, said extended ~~bottoms~~ tab on each said rectangular faces, and said sheathing tabs having attachment to said rafters, said outside wall sheathing, and said underlying top plate, and to said roof respectively forming a box-like shape, thereby preventing uplift, thrusting, and lateral movement of a roof and wall of an existing building during strong winds and earth movements.